

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 3:303, Required Core Academic Standards (formerly Required program of studies) (Final)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) give final approval to 704 KAR 3:303, Required Core Academic Standards?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. At the February 10, 2010, meeting of the KBE, the board took final action on 704 KAR 3:303, Required Core Academic Standards, to replace the mathematics and English/language arts standards within the regulation with the new common core standards in mathematics and reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. The board also revised the regulation to change the name of *Kentucky's Program of Studies for Grades Primary – 12 (revised 2006)* to *Kentucky Core Academic Standards*. At that time, staff communicated that if the final version of the standards released by CCSSO contained substantive changes, the regulation would come back to the board to consider these changes and take action on the regulation.

At the April KBE meeting, KDE staff shared with the board the latest draft of the standards in both content areas along with summaries that outlined how the newest versions of both English/language arts and mathematics standards were different from previous drafts. Assurance was again given that if the final version released by the Council of Chief State School Officers represented substantive changes in either or both content areas, staff would return to the KBE to seek its approval.

The final version publicly released by CCSSO on June 2 did not contain changes to the English/language arts previously approved by the KBE. However, in mathematics, staff felt the changes were significant enough to warrant bringing them back to the KBE for its approval.

Categories of the changes are:

- New content unique to this version
- Compacting of standards
- Technical language
- Increased rigor

More specific examples of the changes are outlined in Attachment A and the full version of the mathematics standards is also attached.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:

Staff recommends that the KBE give final approval to 704 KAR 3:303, Required Core Academic Standards, including the new changes to the mathematics standards. Teachers will now know what to teach, which directly affects the performance of students.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council will review these changes at its next meeting and provide input via letter to the board prior to its August meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Clearer, fewer, higher and internationally benchmarked expectations for all students with support for teachers will increase student achievement in Kentucky.

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